

**MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ALCC) HELD ON 29 April 2026 at 7.00 pm in the
Council Chamber at Council Offices, Mitre street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Josh Rawcliffe (Chair), Peter Adamson, Frankie Baker, Ivor Beynon, Richard Catlin, Tracey Dyson, Bruno Góes Maciel (via video-link), Lucy Harmer, Ralph Henderson MBE, Ben Owen-Jones (via video-link), Barrie Page, Rob Phillips and Nick Simmons

Absent: Steve Bard, Chris Hill, Mark Lewis, Bernard Wall, Mike Whatley, Graham White, Riley Overton (Youth Rep) and Jackson Powell (Youth Rep).

Officers: Steve Edwards (Clerk), Erika Davies (Deputy Clerk) and Molly Jones (Deputy Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence

Steve Bard, Chris Hill, Mark Lewis, Bernard Wall and Jackson Powell.

2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Rob Phillips for agenda item 6 – Grant request from Abertillery & District Museum. Rob Phillips is a member of the museum

3. Minutes 18 March 2026 and 25 March 2026

Council **RESOLVED** the minutes for 18 March 2026 were a true and correct record.

Council **RESOLVED** the minutes for 25 March 2026 were a true and correct record.

4. Public Questions

There were no public questions.

5. Bank Reconciliation and Payments

Council **RESOLVED** to note and approve the bank reconciliations and payment schedule for March 2026.

Peter Adamson had a query concerning the payments to Henleys Bus, it was explained they were for school trips, as part of the school transport grants. The bus company invoices the Council direct for the trips and no funds are put through the schools accounts.

6. Council Grant Applications

Ben Owen-Jones left the meeting at 7:10 pm as he could not hear what was being said in the chamber, the microphone system was having intermittent failures.

Aneurin Leisure: £2,500 to fund free memberships and day passes. This item was deferred for further information as to the criteria that Aneurin Leisure would use to allocate the free memberships and day passes. Molly Jones had spoken to them prior to the meeting and Aneurin Leisure had asked that the Council set the criteria. The Council felt this was not their responsibility as Aneurin Leisure were making the grant application so they should make that decision.

Council **RESOLVED** the following:

Awen Cultural Trust (The Met) – agree the grant of £2000 towards the Abertillery Rock N Blues weekend (Local Government Act 1972, s.145).

Rob Phillips left the meeting

Abertillery and District Museum – agree the grant request of £2,000 towards the ongoing costs of keeping the museum open for the community (Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964, S14).

Rob Phillips returned to the meeting

Abertillery Blaenau Gwent RFC – agree the grant request of £2,000 for security at Aber Rocks (Local Government Act 1972, s.145).

7. School Transport Grants

Council **RESOLVED** to amend the Grants policy, specifically section 4.5 - School Transport Grants. This will remove the qualifying for free school meals criteria and sets the maximum individual grant at £1,666.

Council **RESOLVED** to move £10,000 from the Extra-Curricular School Transport (Community Empowerment Committee) budget line to the Section 137 (Responsible Financial Officer) budget line.

8. Interim Internal Audit Report 2025-2026

The Clerk gave a brief overview and described the report as very good, the main issues around Allotment and Mitre Street Offices leases. The council wanted to thank the Finance and Grants Committee for all its hard work and noted that the Council was in the best place around finance and governance than it had been for over 10 years

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Interim Internal Auditor Report.

9. One Voice Wales Committee Representatives

The Council agreed to defer this item to the Annual Meeting in May. A question was raised on the terms of reference of the two Committees and the frequency of meetings, which will be answered before the Annual Meeting.

10. Somerset Street Cables

The Clerk gave a verbal update on the hanging Christmas Light cable in Somerset Street, it had somehow come loose and was nearing ground level. It was agreed that the £900 quote from our Christmas Lighting contractor, Blachere Illuminations, was excessive.

Richard Catlin said he had spoken to the owner of 44 Somerset Street who could arrange the cable to be fixed, at no cost, either across the facade of the building or up by the guttering. The Clerk will speak to the owner again to arrange this as he had previously thought the owner would not do the work.

Lucy Harmer suggested a plan B if this did not happen and that we could approach Green Fingers who had a cherry picker to do the work.

The Clerk confirmed that the work did not require an electrician as it was simply to move the cable upwards away from the street.

11. Ward Committee Minutes

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the following Ward Committee minutes.

Cwmtillery Ward – 25th February 2026

Llanhilleth Ward – 18th August 2025

Six Bells Ward – 15th January 2025

Abertillery Ward – 24th July 2024

12. Committee Minutes

Council noted the following Committee minutes:

Finance and Governance - 13 March 2026

Leisure and Tourism - 20 March 2026 and 6th March 2026

Community Empowerment – 2nd February 2026

HR – 10th December 2025

HR Sub Committee – 28th January 2026 and 25th February 2026

13. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 20 May 2026 at 7pm (Annual Meeting)

The Clerk reminded members that any amendments to the Terms of Reference for Committees should be with the Officers by 13th May so the motions can be included on the agenda. In addition, Members were asked to consider if they wanted to join committees ahead of the meeting.

The meeting ended at 7:42 pm.

Minutes produced by Steve Edwards, Clerk

Signed as a correct record by the Chair.....

Date.....